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COMMUNICATION OF 12 MAY 1998 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Attached is a communication received from the Permanent Mission of Japan, forwarding a statement by the Chief Cabinet Secretary of the Government of Japan, for the information of Member States.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number.

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12 May 1998

Madam,

I have the honour to submit to you herewith the comment of the Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan regarding the test of a nuclear weapon conducted by India on 11 May 1998.

I would greatly appreciate it if the Agency could distribute this document as an Information Circular (INFCIRC series document) to all Member States.

Accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Masato Takaoka

Alternate to the Resident
Representative of Japan
to the IAEA

Enc.: As Noted

Ms. Odette Jankowitsch
Head of Government and Inter-Agency Affairs Section
Division of External Relations
IAEA VIC Rm. A-2706

TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE OF 12 MAY 1998

Comment by the Chief Cabinet Secretary on the Nuclear Tests by India

12 May 1998
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. In the afternoon of 11 May, the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, announced that India conducted underground nuclear tests. It is extremely regrettable that India conducted such tests, resisting the global trend to ban nuclear testing, while the international community, including Japan, has repeatedly requested the new Indian administration for maximum self-restraint on nuclear policies. Japan strongly urges the Indian Government to stop its development of nuclear weapons immediately. Further, Japan calls upon the countries concerned in the region to practice self-restraint in order not to let the Indian nuclear tests harm the stability of the region.

2. Today, Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi will convey the above message to the Indian Ambassador in Tokyo. In New Delhi, in the afternoon of 11 May, Ambassador Hiroshi Hirabayashi conveyed the message to the Indian Government at a high level.